Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of	)	
	)	
Request by IDS GeoRadar	)	
For Waiver of Section 90.103(b)	)	WT Docket No. 17-358
of the Commission's Rules	)	

REPLY COMMENTS OF IDS GEORADAR

IDS GeoRadar ("IDS") is seeking waiver of the Federal Communications Commission's ("FCC" or "Commission") Part 90 radiolocation rules in order to market a radar system that operates in a frequency range (76-77 GHz) not currently available for radiolocation.[1/]

The IDS system, HYDRA, performs remote sensing of rock and soil surface deformations, allowing geotechnical engineers the ability to better monitor for and detect potential collapses, landslides and rockfalls in mines and tunnels. HYDRA will be marketed to a limited number of customers for a limited range of uses, in particular by engineers working at underground or open-pit mines or tunnel construction sites. Customers will be licensed under the Part 90 licensing regime.

Grant of the IDS waiver request is very much in the public interest. HYDRA was designed in direct response to requests from mining customers seeking improved monitoring instruments. Because HYDRA monitors for changes in surface deformations in real time, and achieves sub-millimeter accuracy with very high spatial resolution, it represents a substantial improvement over currently available technologies. A second benefit is that, due to the use of

1/ *See* 47 C.F.R. § 90.103(b).

upper millimeter wave frequency, the system is portable and compact in size so that it can be placed in many more work locations than currently available products.

HYDRA will be used to protect workers in the mining and construction industries, reducing injuries and deaths related to these operations. In particular, the improved performance will allow engineers to detect smaller rocks that have the potential to fall into work areas, which is a leading cause of injury presently. The improved performance also will allow for earlier detection of hazardous instabilities of rock and soil, increasing the amount of time available for the evacuation of people and expensive machinery.

IDS has demonstrated that the use of HYRDA will not have any harmful interfering impact on other users of the 76-77 GHz band.[2/] The emitted signals will be retained either underground or within the confines of mines that are closed to the public, and the FCC will have control of the locations of use during the licensing process.

The Commission, in its recent consideration of the use of the 76-81 GHz band, indicated that it would be "open to the possibility that specific, limited fixed uses of 76-81 GHz radars outside of airport locations" could be allowed.[3/] The IDS waiver request, with its accompanying proposed conditions, fits squarely within this limited use envisioned by the Commission.

No parties have filed in opposition to this waiver request.

2/ *Request of IDS GeoRadar for Waiver of Section 90.103(b) of the Commission's Rules*, Petition for Waiver, WT Docket No. 17-358 (filed Nov. 15, 2017) ("Waiver Request").

3/ *In the Matter of Amendment of Parts 1, 2, 15, 90 and 95 of the Commission's Rules to Permit Radar Services in the 76-81 GHz Band*, Report and Order, 2017 WL 3033460, FCC 17-94 (2017) ("76-81 GHz Order").

For these reasons, IDS respectfully requests that the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau grant the requested waiver.

Respectfully submitted,

IDS GEORADAR

_____

Laura Stefani
MINTZ, LEVIN, COHN, FERRIS, GLOVSKY, AND POPEO
701 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Suite 900
Washington, D.C. 20004
(202) 434-7387
Its Attorneys

February 1, 2018

75387579v.1